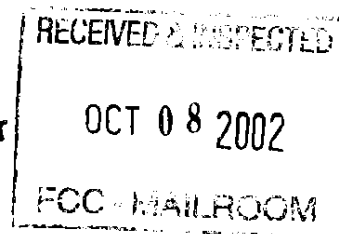




September 24, 2002

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President & CEO

Honorable Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Re: WC Docket No. 02-214

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Dear Secretary Dortch:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) I write to express our support of Verizon Communication's long distance application to provide service in the state of Virginia. Allowing Verizon to compete with other long distance carriers will provide better services to customers at lower rates. This will be most beneficial to our Hispanic small businesses, which do not always have the option when considering long distance and advanced telecommunications services.

Verizon has established itself as a reliable and well-respected local service carrier in Virginia and in many other states along the east coast. Residential and business customers in Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania, where Verizon offers long-distance service, already enjoy the benefits of competition through lower prices and choice among providers. In New York alone, residential and business customers have benefited from competition with cost savings of more than \$200 million annually. This is a positive for the Hispanic businesses we represent. After payroll and insurance lines, telecommunications service is generally a high expenditure item for small businesses. Lower prices for these services through competition will result in considerable cost savings.

Allowing Verizon to enter the long distance market will be of ultimate benefit for the consumer. We believe that Verizon's entry into the long distance market will not only provide for affordable service rates through increased competition, but also create the potential for new jobs and opportunities for Hispanic workers and businesses. In 2000, the USHCC recognized Verizon Communications as the Corporation of the Year for its unwavering support of the Hispanic business community. The USHCC looks forward to working with Verizon to identify more opportunities for our members as they upgrade the network infrastructure and expand the number of services offered in the long distance market.

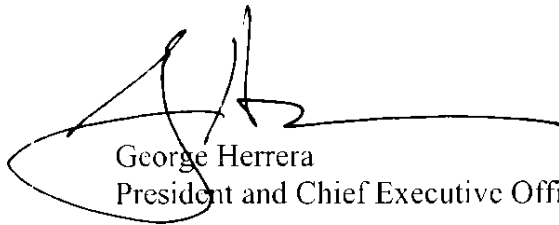
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*Denotes Regional Chair

Page 2 Verizon

With these factors in mind, I hope you will look favorably upon the application of Verizon to become a long distance carrier. The quality of Verizon's local services lends greatly to the promise of its long distance service quality. **A** new alternative is something we would appreciate and welcome. and something we hope you will too.

Respectfully submitted,



George Herrera
President and Chief Executive Officer



2175 K Street NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037

USHCC

Honorable Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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